

III. Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for fabricating a driving and locking mechanism for a bearing device, comprising:

providing a bearing device having a first end and a second end, said first end having a curvilinear shape;

providing a strip of metal material with a pre-determined length, said strip having a cross-sectional shape with a first leg and a second leg perpendicular to said first leg;

conforming said strip of metal material to said curvilinear shape of said first end;
and

locating a plurality of fasteners through said first leg and into said bearing device and deforming selected portions of said second leg into slots spaced about said bearing device to secure said strip to said bearing device ~~attaching said strip of metal material to said first end of said bearing device.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method for fabricating a driving and locking mechanism for a bearing device, comprising:
 - providing a bearing device having a first end and a second end;
 - determining a circumference of said first end of said bearing device;
 - providing a length of metal material having a cross-sectional shape with a first leg and a second leg perpendicular to said first leg;
 - cutting a strip from said length of metal material equivalent to said circumference;
 - bending said strip to have a shape complementary to said first end of said bearing device; and
 - locating a plurality of fasteners through said first leg and into said bearing device and deforming selected portions of said second leg into slots spaced about said bearing device to secure said strip to said bearing device ~~securing said strip to said first end of said bearing device.~~
3. Cancelled.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 2, wherein said first leg extends radially with respect to said bearing device once said strip is fastened to said first end of said bearing device.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 2, wherein said second leg extends axially with respect to said bearing device once said strip is fastened to said first end of said bearing device.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 2, wherein said bearing device has a first set of threads disposed on a radially outer surface designed to engage with a second set of complementary threads on a carrier.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said bearing device is rotated in said carrier until a predetermined alignment is reached.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said second leg is radially deformed outwardly into ~~a slot~~ said slots formed in a said carrier.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 2, wherein at least one aperture is located in said first leg of said strip.
10. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said strip has a first end and a second end.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said strip is bent to locate said first end adjacent said second end.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 2, wherein said strip of metal material is bent manually.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 2, wherein an automated process is used to bend said strip of metal material.
14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said first end contacts said second end.
15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said first end is joined with said second end.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said first end is joined with said second end by welding.
17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein a gap remains between said first end and said second end.
18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 9, wherein ~~at least one mechanical fastener is~~ said fasteners are used to secure said strip to said first end of said bearing device.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein ~~said at least one mechanical fastener is~~ each of said fasteners are located in ~~said~~ at least one aperture in said strip and secured to said first end of said bearing device.

20. (Currently Amended) A driving and locking mechanism for a threaded bearing device produced by the process, comprising:

providing a bearing device having a first end and a second end, said first end having a curvilinear shape;

providing a strip of metal material with a pre-determined length, said strip having a cross-sectional shape with a first leg and a second leg perpendicular to said first leg;

conforming said strip of metal material to said curvilinear shape of said first end;
and

locating a plurality of fasteners through said first leg and into said bearing device and deforming selected portions of said second leg into slots spaced about said bearing device to secure said strip to said bearing device ~~attaching said strip of metal material to said first end of said bearing device.~~